THE NATURALIST.

(Communications of any kind intended for THE FIELD must be addressed to "THE EDITOR," not to Strutt, and not to the publishing office, unless any one who may be known in connection with the paper. This rule must be strictly attended to in future.] WILLIAMSBURGH is indeed a favourable spot for the delays and instructions.

ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

SIR,—I have just received on behalf of the society a small hamper containing two nests, 50 ten and twelve eggs respectively, of the ruffled grouse of Canada, most kindly sent by Capt. Hardy, Royal Artillery now at Halifax, Nova Scotia. This gentleman writes to me: "I have packed each carefully in dry moss, and sent them by a trusty messenger, although I have not the slightest doubt many eggs will be broken, besides those I send you, and they were both taken on the same day by my Indian hunter, Glen Wilson, about forty miles from Halifax, in the woods. I have, and waiting till the season is more favourable were about the usual complement, took them both at the same time, and carefully brought them to me. I can safely say they are not yet hatched, and I shall be able, I trust, to send you young birds, as I can rear them here. There is a plan of Canada partridges (*Tetrao canadensis*) breeding in confinement near this. I might have sent some of their eggs, but think it a pity to disturb them in bringing up a healthy progeny accustomed to cold and wet. I think you will see by the size of the eggs that when I think they will be strong enough." Capt. Hardy's letter is dated May 4. There is, hence, but little chance of the young birds hatched. They have been immediately placed out under the auspices of members of the society. The best thanks of the society are due to Capt. Hardy for the great trouble he has taken in procuring and sending these eggs. We trust other gentlemen who have the opportunity will follow his example, and forward eggs of any kind for the use of the society.

F. T. BUCKLAND (2nd Life Guards).

NOTES AND QUESTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

THE GOLDEN ORIOLE.—Query, Is it not a fact that this bird is double *moults* before coming rule. I confess, since my attention has been called to it, to hearing it in the woods of Fulham, &c., and the last occasion I noticed it getting his note out, and rather says "Cock-crock-uck-coo; cock-crock-uck-coo." Which are the correct notes?

EGGS OF THE KESTREL.—I would just mention that I have this season obtained a nest of the kestrel's eggs, four coloured as usual, the fifth rather larger than the others and pure white. I had them from a man I know well, who took them himself, and there is not the least grounds to suspect the addition of a fifth egg to the nest, as I have seen the nest myself since, able to know it well to recognise it were any thing that sometimes happens.—A. G.

A CAT SUCKING HER OFFSPRING.—I have just received from Mr. Glen of Imal, in the county of Wicklow, last week. A hare was accidentally captured and killed by the dogs, which on being opened by the keeper, who was found to be with young, and on opening her three live leverets were taken from her womb, which were put into a basket with the dead dam from where the hare was killed. The young leverets were put to her in place of her own unfortunate offspring, and since that time she has suckled them, and hares are thriving just as well as if nothing their own mother.—C. W. W.

RARITY OF A WHITE BLACKBIRD.—I have received from M. le Professeur, of the Jardin des Plantes :—"Mon cher Monsieur,—Les admirateurs nombreux de votre philippique contre les chats, et les amis nombreuses de plantes qui vivent en sein des eaux douces et salées. Les varechs nécessaires aux engrais des cultivateurs maritimes. Les oiseaux et les plantes qui les entretiennent du littoral resultent à certaines époques sous la main de Gouvernement pour être distribués aux personnes qui peuvent le solliciter."—H. G. (Paris.)

FAMILIARITY OF THE WOOD-PIGEON.—I have seen an instance of tameness in a wood-pigeon similar to that which E. S. T. describes. I was driving in a dog-cart on the road from Ashbourne to Derby, and when I saw I saw a wood-pigeon sitting in the road in front of me. It scarcely moved as I approached, and when I was almost close to it flew only a little it gently with the whip, but it would not fly. Being in a hurry I did not get down to catch it, as could have done easily, but I am sure that it appeared in good health, for its feathers were smooth, and its eye bright.—E. T. D.

WHITE AND PARTI-COLOURED RATS.—Seeing an account in your last week's paper of white and parti-coloured rats, I would inform the same men in the employ of Mr Gibbs, of Church Gresh, Worcestershire, were engaged in removing a stack of wheat, discovered a nest of young rats, white and parti-coloured rats are not common, but several have occurred within the range of my observation. To many of your readers this account will be acceptable.—H. G. (Paris.)

PRESERVATION OF BIRDS.—I should be glad if some of your correspondents would favour me with any information as to the best method of preserving birds, and any recipe that could be taken with a view to their preservation, and what are the best to adopt when making birds of stuffed specimens. I have a few specimens of birds which I have stuffed such as those made of dry grass, &c., but I fear many will be attacked by moth, and I should be glad to know what would be the best thing to be done to become moth-eaten. Then, again, the downy structure made by some of the darker, as I fear, stuffing will not be proof against moth, and I have no doubt not, be acceptable to many of your readers, and among them to ask.—C.—The use of camphor or benzine will keep out all living animals.—Ed.)

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—Mr. Nicholson, of St. Mary's Hospital, will find in an old volume of the "Transactions of the Asiatic Society," an account of the toucan or beaucro bird, which is eaten by the Indians with impunity. The flesh of the bird was first ascertained at any animal feeding on so deadly a poison. I am sorry that I cannot refer to the volume in question, but I think it is the second or third volume of the Asiatic Society's Transactions. Mr. Nicholson will find in the same volume, also, a curious account of the manner in which the Indians of Malabar make the poison which they use for their arrows. I have not the slightest doubt but the acceptable to many of your readers, and among them to ask.—Ed.)

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—Mr. Nicholson, of St. Mary's Hospital, will find in an old volume of the "Transactions of the Asiatic Society," an account of the toucan or beaucro bird, which is eaten by the Indians with impunity. The flesh of the bird was first ascertained at any animal feeding on so deadly a poison. I am sorry that I cannot refer to the volume in question, but I think it is the second or third volume of the Asiatic Society's Transactions. Mr. Nicholson will find in the same volume, also, a curious account of the manner in which the Indians of Malabar make the poison which they use for their arrows. I have not the slightest doubt but the acceptable to many of your readers, and among them to ask.—Ed. (The use of camphor or benzine will keep out all living animals.—Ed.)

THE GRISLINOTTE.—Can any of your correspondents favour me with the account of the Grislinotte, which genus does it belong to, and where in Europe? Not knowing its scientific name, I have not been able to find a description of it in any of the works on ornithology in my library. (*Tetrao bonasia*) is of common occurrence in France and Germany on hills covered with fir trees. The Grislinotte, or hazel grouse, is a bird of passage, makes its nest under shelter of the common brake, and lays as many as sixteen eggs of a yellowish colour. We will be glad to hear if our readers are chiefly from Tamminick, Vol. ii. p. 461, where a full description of both male and female will be found.—Ed. We will be glad to hear their sentiments.—Ed.)

FOOD OF SEA BIRDS.—Mr Crichton seems surprised that the gulls, &c., in the Orkneys find sufficient daily food. Has he never looked into the sea there within the ebb mark, and seen the countless myriads of life that swarm? Not knowing its scientific name, I have not been able to find a description of it in any of the works on ornithology in my library. (*Tetrao bonasia*) is of common occurrence in France and Germany on hills covered with fir trees. The Grislinotte, or hazel grouse, is a bird of passage, makes its nest under shelter of the common brake, and lays as many as sixteen eggs of a yellowish colour. We will be glad to hear if our readers are chiefly from Tamminick, Vol. ii. p. 461, where a full description of both male and female will be found.—Ed. We will be glad to hear their sentiments.—Ed.)

PASTIMES

ARCHERY.

ARCHERY MEETINGS FIXED.

Wolverley, June 18.—Next Summer Archers. First Great Day.
Thursday, June 20.—Archers of the Tome (Ludlow).
Thursday, June 20.—Hurdwick Archery Society. First Prize Meeting.
Thursday, June 20.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Grand Subscription Handicap.
Tuesday, June 25.—Highgate Archers' Society. Ordinary Meeting.
Tuesday, June 25.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Ladies' Prize Day.
Thursday, June 27.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Prize given by G. C. Maies, Esq.
Thursday, July 4.—Hampstead Archers. Meeting.
Tuesday, July 9.—Eccleston Archers. Monthly Meeting.
Tuesday, July 9.—Highgate Archers' Society. Ordinary Meeting.
Tuesday, July 9.—Archers of the Tome (Ludlow).
Thursday, July 11.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Prize given by Sydney G. B. Stroud, Esq.
Thursday, July 11.—Hampstead Archers. Prize Meeting.
Friday, July 12.—Highgate Archery Society. Prize Meeting.
Tuesday, July 16.—Eccleston Archers. Prize Meeting.
Saturday, July 20.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Grand National Archery Meeting.
Thursday, July 25.—Royal Toxophilite Society. Challenge Cup, 2s. by Capt. Norton.
Tuesday, July 30.—Highgate Archers' Society. Ordinary Meeting.
Friday, Aug 2.—Eccleston Archers. Meeting.
Tuesday, Aug 6.—Highgate Archers' Society. Ordinary Meeting.
Thursday and Friday, Aug. 7 and 8.—Grand Western Archery Meeting.
Tuesday, Aug. 13.—Eccleston Archers. Monthly Meeting.
Tuesday, Aug. 13.—Archers of the Tome (Ludlow).
Tuesday, Aug. 20.—Highgate Archers' Society. Prize Meeting.
Tuesday, Sept. 3.—Highgate Archers' Society. Ordinary Meeting.
Friday, Sept. 13.—Highgate Archery Society. Ordinary Meeting.

THE LEAMINGTON AND KENILWORTH COUNTIES ANNUAL GRAND ARCHERY MEETING.

THE annual grand archery meeting, held every year since the summer of 1844 at Leamington, commenced on Wednesday last, and was attended by most of the expert archers of the midland counties. It was scarcely perfect for those who took part in the competition to be surrounded with circumstances more favourable to success. Sunshine, a cloudless sky, a gentle breeze, a charming scenery and windy—became for the occasion brilliant and delightful. The old fall at temperature of the weather, a beautiful trees of Jephson's Gardens, and lent a pleasant shade to those who felt the inconvenience of the heat. The wind, too, which was at rest, and gently rustled the branches, but not enough to retard the arrow from its destination. The ground was well selected for the competitors to compete for the offered prizes. Most of the gentlemen who attired for the butts. The handsome and excitement is not monopolised by the archers; for the ladies, who were numerously present, admired the gay uniforms, the "Lincoln green" appropriately predominating. One of the most pleasing features in the day's proceedings was the presence of the county and the town, and a goodly array of visitors, who were temporarily sojourning in the neighbourhood, and who appeared to be the present at the meeting. The Volunteer Rifle band—a novel acquisition since last year—was in attendance, and discoursed excellent music. The target and landscape orchestra recently erected by the Jephson Garden Committee. The following is a list of the gentlemen who competed for the prizes, by the gentlemen, at the distance of one hundred yards. This continued until about last year Archery Meeting, which was held at Warwick, and was provided by Mr Oldham. The ladies at half-past two put in a graceful appearance, immediately after the conclusion of the first competition, and witness their shooting at 30 yards against the gentlemen's 50 yards. This having been completed, the prizes of Mr Jephson and the 40 yards were shot over. The best totals of the day amongst the ladies were the following:—Miss Hewitt, 60 hits, 360 points; Miss Ryland, 60 hits, 350 points;